

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended based on the disclosure at, e.g., page 10 in the application, and claims 2 and 3 have been canceled in view of the amendment of claim 1.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Saito et al (USP 5,705,452) or Oda et al (USP 5,840,652).

A. The Examiner's Position

The Examiner position is basically that Saito and Oda teach a heat sensitive recording material comprising a support and a color forming layer which contain 2,4-bis(phenylsulfonyl) phenol as color developer and a mixture of thermally fusible substances (e.g., 2-naphthylbenzyl ether and stearic acid amide).

B. Applicants' Response

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to distinguish over the cited art more clearly. In this regard, Applicants note that, e.g., stearic acid amide is no longer included within the scope of the present claims.

Thus, Applicants submit that the cited art neither teaches nor suggests the invention as recited in the amended claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/003,360

Attorney Docket No.: Q67091

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

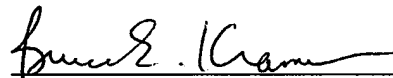
Respectfully submitted,

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